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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/728,509	12/05/2003	Hong Zhang	ISPH-0803	9823

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EXAMINER

ZARA, JANE J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1635

MAIL DATE DELIVERY MODE

10/16/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/728,509

Applicant(s)

ZHANG ET AL.

Examiner

Jane Zara

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 August 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 11-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 11-16 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This Office action is in response to the communication filed 8-6-07.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.142(a), an examiner's action on the merits of the amendments and arguments filed by applicant on 8-6-07, insofar as they pertain to the elected invention, is hereby deferred until an election has been made (See MPEP at §§ 810, 811 and 811.02), the requirements for which are set forth below.

Claims 1-9, 11-16 are pending in the instant application.

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

Please elect a single SEQ. ID No. from claims 1, 15 and 16.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

The different inventions drawn to different oligonucleotides are unrelated.

Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case, the oligonucleotides and methods comprising them are biologically, structurally and functionally different and distinct from each other. The methods involving the use of a distinct oligonucleotide and therefore utilize a different and distinct composition, and so utilize distinct methods steps from each other. For these reasons, the inventions of these different Groups are patentably distinct.

Furthermore, searching the inventions of Groups comprising all of these different polynucleotide molecules and target regions, and the methods comprising them together would impose a serious search burden. In the instant case, the search of the distinct methods and compositions are not coextensive. There is a search burden also in the non-patent literature. Prior to the concomitant construction and utilization of the different nucleic acid constructs of interest there may be journal articles devoted solely to one Group (e.g. one polynucleotide sequence) that would not have described the compositions and methods of the other Group. Searching, therefore is not coextensive. As such, it would be burdensome to search the inventions of the different Groups together.

Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case different nucleic acid oligonucleotides are unrelated as they comprise distinct sequences and utilize different nucleic acid constructs which demonstrates that each method or composition has a different mode of operation. The methodology and materials necessary for each of these distinct inventions differ significantly, and each Group constitutes a biologically, chemically and functionally distinct and different composition and therefore each involves a patentably distinct invention. Therefore, each oligonucleotide sequence is divergent in materials and steps. For these reasons the inventions of these different Groups are patentably distinct.

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 121 and 37 C.F.R. 1.141, the different oligonucleotides in Applicant's response filed 8-6-07, listed in claims 1, 15 and 16, and encompassed by claims 1-9 and 11-16, are subject to restriction. In the instant case, one independent and distinct oligonucleotide sequence will be examined in a single application without restriction. Those sequences which are patentably indistinct from the sequence selected by the applicant will also be examined.

Claims 1-9, 11-16 specifically embrace different oligonucleotides. Each of these nucleic acids and corresponding target region is considered to be structurally independent, because each is represented by a unique nucleotide sequence. Furthermore, a search of all the sequences claimed presents an undue burden on the Patent and Trademark Office to search and examine. In view of the foregoing, applicants are required to elect up to **1 (one) oligonucleotide**.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim

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remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Advisory Information

Applicant is advised that the final rules on claims and continuations were published in the Federal Register Tuesday, August 21, 2007. As of November 1, 2007, the claims in each application may not exceed 5 independent claims or 25 total claims absent the applicant assisting the examination process through the filing of an Examination Support Document (ESD). The following is taken from the published rules package:

- **Applicants may present, without an ESD, up to:**
 - **Five (5) independent claims or**
 - **Twenty-five (25) total claims in an application.**
- **Applicant may present more than 5/25 claims, if applicant files an ESD before the first Office action on the merits (FAOM).**
- **The 5/25 claim threshold does not count withdrawn claims.**
 - **Applicant may provide a suggested restriction requirement (SRR) before first Office action or a restriction requirement.**
- **The 5/25 claim threshold does count all of the claims present in other copending application(s) having a patentably indistinct claim, but not the claims in issued patents.**
 - **Applicant may present up to 15/75 claims via an initial application and 2 continuation or CIP applications prosecuted serially.**

The final rules will become effective November 1, 2007, and will apply to all pending applications as of that date. Applicants are advised to ensure that the elected claims are compliant with the new rules to avoid delay of prosecution. There will be no change to the examiner practice prior to the date the rules become effective.

Information on the new rules will be available at:

<http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/dapp/opla/presentation/clmcontfinalrule.html>

If Applicant has any questions concerning the new rules, email
patentpractice@uspto.gov or call 571-272-7704.

Conclusion

Certain papers related to this application may be submitted to Art Unit 1635 by facsimile transmission. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notices published in the Official Gazette, 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993) and 1157 OG 94 (December 28, 1993) (see 37 C.F.R. ' 1.6(d)). The official fax telephone number for the Group is 571-273-8300. NOTE: If Applicant does submit a paper by fax, the original signed copy should be retained by applicant or applicant's representative. NO DUPLICATE COPIES SHOULD BE SUBMITTED so as to avoid the processing of duplicate papers in the Office.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jane Zara whose telephone number is (571) 272-0765. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Douglas Schultz, can be reached on (571) 272-0763. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

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published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jane Zara
10-11-07

J Zara
TC 1600

JANE ZARA, P.D.
PRIMARY EXAMINER